

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 603
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Judge Hewitt Pegues Tomlin, Jr., of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Judge Hewitt P. Tomlin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a descendant of one of Jackson's oldest families, his great-grandfather, John L. H. Tomlin, was the mayor of Jackson in 1848; and

WHEREAS, Hewitt P. Tomlin, Jr., attended public schools in Jackson before graduating from Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire, in 1944. After a year spent serving in the Army Air Corps in 1945, Mr. Tomlin received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1948 and his law degree from Vanderbilt University in 1951; from 1948 to 1951, he proudly served in the Naval Reserve; and

WHEREAS, in a career marked by distinctive public service, Judge Hewitt P. Tomlin, Jr., served the good people of Madison County as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1952 to 1954 and, for twenty-nine years, Judge Tomlin practiced law as a defense attorney with the law firm of Waldrop, Hall, and Tomlin; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin served as Vice President of the Tennessee Bar Association from 1962 until 1963 and as President of the Jackson/Madison County Bar Association from 1965 until 1966; he was a member of the Board of Governors from 1965 until 1969 and served as Madison County Attorney from 1972 until 1981; and

WHEREAS, from 1971 to 1975, Judge Tomlin was a member of the Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning Commission and the Tennessee Judicial Counsel; he also served as a

board member of the First National Bank of Jackson, and from 1973 to 1983, he served as a trustee for Southwestern at Memphis, now known as Rhodes College; and

WHEREAS, described as tenacious, intelligent, and fair, Judge Hewitt P. Tomlin, Jr., was appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander to the Tennessee Court of Appeals in 1980; he served nearly two decades on the Tennessee Court of Appeals and hired a team of lawyers that would produce two federal judges, a fellow Court of Appeals justice, and a congressman/prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, he was elected Presiding Judge of the Western Division, in which position he served for ten years; in addition, Mr. Tomlin served as Senior Judge for three additional years before retiring in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin's legacy also looms large in the local business and philanthropic communities; in the 1950s, he developed the Farmington Estates neighborhood and, in 1967, Mr. Tomlin developed Old Hickory Mall with his late sister, Frances Tigrett; in 1985, he co-founded the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his distinctive professional career, Judge Tomlin was a member of the International Association of Insurance Counsel, Princeton University's Ivy Club, Phi Delta Theta fraternity, the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Jackson Country Club, the Memphis Country Club, and the Highland Falls Country Club; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin enjoyed playing tennis and golf, boating, and traveling with his wife, Joan; he was an avid hunter who loved and cherished his Labrador retrievers throughout the years; and

WHEREAS, a man of great religious conviction, Judge Tomlin was an active and devout member of the Evangelical Community Church in Jackson, which he served faithfully as an Elder for many years, as well as serving on the Missions Committee; and

WHEREAS, Judge Hewitt Tomlin, Jr., was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-two years, Joan Cooke Tomlin, and was the proud father of sons Hewitt P. Tomlin III and Dwight Cooke Tomlin and daughter Julie Tomlin Pierce; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin leaves behind twelve grandchildren: Sonja Aslog Tomlin, Hewitt P. Tomlin IV, Micah Earling Tomlin, John James Tomlin, Lucas Russell Tomlin, Meredith Blanche Tomlin, Hannah Frances Tomlin, Dwight Cooke Tomlin, Jr., Matthew Edward Tomlin, Alexander Webster Pierce IV, Travis Langford Pierce, and Jackson Tomlin Pierce; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin is further survived by his nephew, Isaac Burton Tigrett II, his great-niece, Augusta King Tigrett, his daughters-in-law, Maylill Drangslund Tomlin and Laura Looney Tomlin, and his son-in-law, Alexander Webster Pierce III; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin was preceded in death by his parents, Hewitt Pegues Tomlin, Sr., and Irma Black Tomlin; his sister, Frances Tomlin Tigrett; and two nephews, John Burton Tigrett, Jr., and Hewitt King Tigrett; and

WHEREAS, Judge Tomlin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Judge Hewitt Pegues Tomlin, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and unbounded ability as an attorney and public servant, his devotion to his faith, his country, and his family, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Judge Hewitt P. Tomlin, Jr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.